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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #20, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 12, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 5, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- USAID/OFDA, in response to shelter assistance gaps identified by the U.N. Shelter Cluster, provided an additional 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for delivery to affected areas via the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) common humanitarian pipeline.
- A USAID/OFDA disaster specialist, a USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) representative, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) personnel conducted a rapid assessment of cyclone-affected areas in Ayeyarwady Division on June 3 and 4. The Government of Burma (GOB) Livestock Breeding and Veterinarian Department (LBVD) facilitated the trip.
- From June 6 to 12, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with USAID/OFDA, flew 35 C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. Of the 35 DOD flights, three carried USAID/OFDA commodities, including five water bladders to serve the daily water needs of nearly 5,000 people, two water treatment systems to provide safe drinking water for 20,000 people, and one zodiac boat to facilitate access to affected areas from logistical hubs in the delta. The flights of USAID/OFDA commodities were consigned to U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. The remaining 32 flights transported U.N., NGO, and DOD relief commodities, including household kit items, tents, plastic sheeting rolls, and other shelter materials. To date, USAID/OFDA and DOD have completed 151 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon.
- On June 10, post-Nargis joint assessment teams, involving more than 250 Burmese, U.N., and international staff, arrived in Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions. According to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, an integral member of the assessment, the GOB will provide the teams with communications support, boats, and vehicles, while the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) will provide five helicopters to facilitate access to the most affected areas.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Dead	77,700	GOB – May 16, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	OCHA ¹ – May 9, 2008
Total Missing	55,900	GOB – May 16, 2008
Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements	110,000	OCHA – May 22, 2008
Total Number Affected	2.4 million	OCHA – May 29, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma	\$16,303,727
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Burma	\$12,000,000
DOD Assistance to Burma	\$9,475,900
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....	\$37,779,627

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of June 10, the GOB had issued 195 visas to international U.N. staff, according to OCHA, 90 of whom have traveled to affected areas as of June 9.
- By June 9, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross Society (MRCS) had reached more than 250,000 affected individuals, including approximately 190,000 in Ayeyarwady Division. In addition, IFRC and MRCS delivered 915 metric tons (MT) of relief supplies to the most affected townships in Rangoon Division as of June 8.

Humanitarian Access

- On June 10, the GOB reported granting visas to 911 relief workers and authorizing 569 to work in affected areas.

¹ The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- Despite an increasing number of visas granted and improved access to affected areas for U.N. staff and some international NGOs, other humanitarian organizations continue to report obstacles after receiving permission to travel to the affected areas. For example, some organizations report being turned away at police checkpoints and having permission revoked without explanation. Lack of access overall continues to prevent needs-driven approaches to humanitarian relief operations.
- In addition, on June 10, the GOB briefed U.N. and humanitarian organizations on guidelines to follow while providing assistance. Requirements include seeking approval for activities, visas, and relief supply imports from relevant GOB ministries and the Tripartite Core Group, as well as providing these entities with detailed listings of relief supplies and distribution plans. Members of the Interagency Standing Committee, including key U.N. and non-U.N. partners, conveyed concern that such requirements may negatively impact ongoing emergency relief operations..

Agriculture and Livestock Assessment

- An assessment team, including a USAID/OFDA disaster specialist, the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) Regional Infectious Diseases Team Leader, and USDA staff members conducted a rapid appraisal of Dedaye, Pyapon, Pathein, Bogale, and Labutta townships in Ayeyarwady Division on June 3 and 4.
- The team identified the inability of farmers to plant rice seeds in time for the upcoming growing season as a major concern. Reported times necessary for planting varied from 10 days to two months, with significant preparation required before any major planting can occur. Approximately 15 percent of the arable land had been either plowed or planted before the cyclone, while the remaining 85 percent is either flooded or not yet plowed.
- In Dedaye township, local officials reported a loss of 20,000 cattle and 22,000 water buffalo. In Labutta, observed by the team to be the most affected area visited, authorities reported a loss of in excess of 30,000 water buffalo and cattle. According to GOB LBVD officials in Pyapon, the GOB plans to move water buffalo and cattle to the area, including 60 to Pyapon township and 105 to Bogale township. Local officials will distribute the animals, though the exact criteria for distribution remains unclear.
- The team also observed village residents harvesting water, using traditional means to collect rainwater off the roofs of houses, but did not observe similar techniques in more urban areas. Local GOB authorities identified shelter, food, and livelihoods as the three main priorities for affected populations.

Logistics

- WFP helicopters continue to carry relief commodities and food assistance to the five UNJLC hubs, from which small trucks and boats transport the assistance to areas in the southern delta.
- The helicopters also supplant ground and water transportation missions to deliver assistance from the Labutta and Bogale hubs to areas accessible only by air. According to USAID/OFDA disaster specialists in Bangkok coordinating humanitarian assistance with U.N. clusters, as of June 12, WFP helicopters had delivered assistance to 33 remote locations in the delta, prioritizing food deliveries (93 MT), followed by shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene items (16 MT).
- In addition to aid deliveries, WFP is currently coordinating with the Tripartite Core Group to provide logistics support to the post-Nargis joint assessment teams beginning the week of June 16.
- To date, the UNJLC common humanitarian pipeline has dispatched more than 2,648 MT of humanitarian assistance. In support of the effort, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1 million to WFP.

Food Assistance

- As of June 11, WFP reported reaching an estimated 596,000 beneficiaries, out of the 750,000 targeted, with varying food rations and cash assistance. According to OCHA, the GOB requested that WFP cease the cash transfer program due to currency exchange issues.
- WFP has delivered 13,923 MT of food to affected areas and distributed 6,667 MT since the cyclone struck. In addition, WFP reports completing a one-month rice ration distribution in all 50 village tracts of Labutta township.
- WFP is working with the GOB and cluster partners to ensure provision of adequate food assistance to affected populations for as long as needed. USAID/FFP continues to support the food pipeline, with 1,670 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$3.5 million, scheduled to arrive in Burma on June 13. USAID/FFP has allocated an additional \$8.5 million to WFP.

Shelter and Settlements

- In response to identified shelter assistance gaps and insufficient supplies of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins, the U.N. Shelter Cluster established a sub cluster in Bogale township, one of the most affected areas, to strengthen field-based coordination among partners.
- The latest USAID/OFDA contribution of 1,000 plastic sheeting rolls, in addition to the 5,490 rolls previously provided, brings the total USAID/OFDA emergency shelter response to nearly \$2.4 million. The USAID/OFDA contribution will provide shelter assistance to 325,000 individuals, or 64,900 households.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 5, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires Shari Villarosa declared a disaster in Burma due to the effects of Cyclone Nargis. In response, USAID/OFDA deployed a USAID/DART and immediately provided \$250,000 to U.N. agencies for shelter and water and sanitation assistance.
- On May 6, an additional \$3 million from USAID/OFDA was allocated for the provision of emergency relief assistance, including \$1 million to the American Red Cross and \$2 million for NGO partners.
- On May 12, USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore announced \$13 million in food aid and logistics assistance through WFP.
- On June 5, USAID/OFDA allocated an additional \$8.1 million for relief efforts.
- To date, USAID/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities have reached more than 445,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA emergency programs, implemented through U.N. and NGO partners in the most affected townships, aim to benefit more than 1million people.
- From May 12 to June 12, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$4 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 151 DOD C-130 flights.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
American Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies; Shelter Kits	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Various NGOs	Economy and Market Systems; Health; Logistics; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Emergency Relief Commodities; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$5,030,751
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$250,000
U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees	Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$100,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Nutrition; Protection	Affected Areas	\$1,900,000
WFP	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$1,050,000
U.N. World Health Organization	Health	Affected Areas	\$500,000
Various (NGOs, IOs, and U.N. Agencies)	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$4,074,519 ²
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Burma	\$325,642
USAID	Logistics and Transport	Burma	\$2,072,815
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$16,303,727
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$12,000,000
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD	Air Transport; Logistics	Affected Areas	\$9,475,900
TOTAL DOD			\$9,475,900
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$37,779,627

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 12, 2008.

² Includes \$600,000 in USAID/OFDA-purchased DOD commodities.

³ Estimated value of anticipated or obligated food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Cyclone Nargis, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int
- In addition to USG contributions, the U.S. private sector has actively responded to the cyclone in Burma. More information can be found at:
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center: www.uschamber.com/bclc/default
 - Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/